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OSD review completed

NSC Review Completed

24 April 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Group, 23 April 1964

PRESENT: Mr. Bundy, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Vance, and General Carter.

State Dept. review completed

Also present were Lieutenant General Joseph F. Carroll, Mr. John Hughes, and Colonel Jack Ledford.

DIA review(s) completed.

Reconnaissance Effort against Cambodia.

1. On the reconnaissance effort against Cambodia, it was agreed that additional missions continue for a two-week period under the existing Special Group 30-mile restriction. Additional analysis will then be available to determine if results are commensurate with the risks.

2. In this connection, a briefing featuring photograph blowups was given by General Carroll and Mr. John Hughes of DIA, depicting the type of information which can <sup>be</sup> and has been provided. Specific evidences of Viet Cong buildups were shown and indicators of additional buildup areas were identified.

3. General Carter then proposed that the future MACV reconnaissance requirements for all of Laos and North Vietnam as well as Cambodia within the existing restriction be handled by SAC aircraft utilizing Saigon. He emphasized that these missions more and more consist of overt tactical flying in a theatre of war and the relinquishment of these specific missions will enable CIA aircraft to undertake other requirements of a more covert nature. The members of the Special Group accepted this proposal.

Overflying Laos

4. In regard to overflying Laos, Mr. Bundy observed that it was national policy to support Laotian sovereignty as established at Geneva, and hence it was not appropriate to entertain any blanket disregard of overflight restrictions. Mr. Johnson returned to the question of whether the risks are disproportionate to the results. He reiterated that the dangers were twofold: the possible loss of aircraft and the ability of North Vietnam to capitalize on U.S. overflights of Laos with susceptible Laotian politicians.

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5. In regard to specific scheduled operations (see DOD paper dated 8 April 1964), paragraph 3.a. (Action No. 55) and the four resupply drops (paragraph 3.b.) were approved. However, paragraphs 3.c. and d. dealing with team drops for psychological operations, intelligence and propaganda delivery were not approved. The door was left open for submission of further special operations to be considered on a mission-by-mission basis.

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Items of Unresolved Business

8. Referring to the memorandum circulated at the meeting by the Secretary of the Special Group listing Items of Unresolved Business since January 1964, Mr. Vance moved that the question of  be considered next week. The other members agreed.

*Peter Jessup*  
Peter Jessup

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Mr. Johnson  
Mr. Vance  
Mr. McCone

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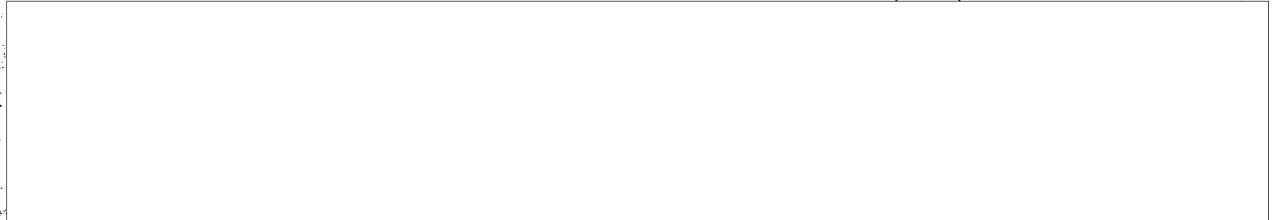
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MEMORANDUM FOR: *DDST*

**Item from Minutes of Special Group Meeting  
held 14 May 1964.**

**Specific reference by B number has been  
deleted from all other copies.**

**15 May 1964**

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(DATE)

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